

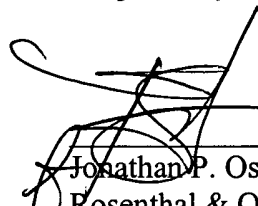
an explanation indicates a recognition of separate inventive effort by inventors. Separate status in the art may be shown by citing patents which are evidence of such separate status, and also of a separate field of search." MPEP § 808.02(B).

In the present case, it is asserted that the inventions are distinct and "have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter." *Office Action*, page 2. Applicant respectfully submits that the statement that the subject matter of the claims is divergent is unsupported. No recognition of separate inventive effort has been shown and no patents were cited as evidence of a separate status in the art. Thus, separate status in the art has not been established. Furthermore, given that the claims are classified together, and the field of search is the same, searching the claims together would not place any serious burden on the Examiner. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place the application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference No. 15115.003001).

Respectfully submitted,

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